Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Thursday 07 Jan 2021 until 23:59 on Friday 08 Jan 2021

Forecast Issued on Thursday 07 Jan 2021 at 03:45

Confidence: High confidence for cold conditions for the first few days and some snow fall on Thursday and Friday. Also high confidence for freezing level rising over the weekend with some lower level snow melting and becoming more unsettled.

Headline for Thursday 07 Jan 2021: Cloudy with outbreaks of snow, poor visibility at times.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 07 Jan 2021

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Medium Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Cloudy	Cloudy	Light snow	Mist	Light snow	Cloudy
Precipitation probability					
40%	40%	60%	20%	60%	30%

Forecast for Thursday 07 Jan 2021

Weather: Outbreaks of snow edging south around dawn, these will mainly be light but will continue throughout the day. The cloud is expected to break at times during the evening.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 10-20% outbreaks of snow throughout the day, 30-50% by late afternoon.

Visibility: Around day break there will be some patchy low cloud above 400m however this will become extensive by mid-morning from the lower slopes upwards, the low cloud will break and lift later in the day again. In heavier outbreaks of snow visibility may become very poor for a time.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Thursday 07 Jan 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	16/19 SW	12/14 SW	9/11 SW	9/11 NE	15/19 N	20/25 NE	21/26 N
600	11/14 SW	8/11 SW	6/8 SW	6/9 N	12/17 N	13/19 N	13/20 N
300	4/13 SW	3/9 SW	3/7 SW	3/8 N	5/14 N	5/16 N	6/17 N
Valley	0/5 W	1/6 SE	2/4 E	3/8 N	7/16 N	9/18 N	11/21 N

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-3/-9	-3/-9	-3/-8	-3/-8	-3/-10	-4/-11	-5/-12
600	-2/-6	-2/-6	-1/-4	-1/-5	-2/-7	-2/-8	-3/-9
300	0/-2	0/-2	1/-1	1/-1	0/-3	-1/-4	-1/-4
Valley	-0/-2	1/-1	2/0	2/0	2/-1	2/-2	1/-3
Freezing Level*	300m	300m	400m	400m	400m	200m	200m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Snow expected to lie to low levels but only small accumulations are expected. Feeling bitterly cold by late afternoon as northerly winds strengthen.

Forecast for Friday 08 Jan 2021

Weather: A few wintry showers are possible in the morning but these will clear leaving a nice day with long sunny spells, a clear dry evening is expected.

Maximum wind: Northerly 15-20mph gusts 25mph.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 60% first thing with some mist and fog, becoming 80% later with a few showers during the day.

Visibility: Cloud will mainly be above the summits but some scattered cloud will shroud the tops down to 600m as showers move through the area. Visibility may fall poor as snow showers go through.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Minus 2 rising to 3 Celsius.
At 800m: Minus 4 Celsius
Freezing level: 200m or less

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 6 January 2021. Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:40. Full report: High pressure, stable temperatures and minimal precipitation means that underfoot conditions have changed little over the past few days. Owing to the fickle nature of showers, however, this may not be the case in other areas of the National Park. There has been a little redistribution of snow on the predominantly NE winds with spindrift on S and W facing slopes and in sheltered spots and hollows. Snow can be encountered from 300m, with the main snowline being around 400m. Snow depth rises with height and although the actual depth varies, there is a general covering of between 5cm to 10cm with the deepest drifts able to swallow a 70cm ice axe, although such depth is exceptional. Where undisturbed, the snowpack is very soft with isolated harder patches found below 650m on aspects catching the sun which have undergone a thaw / freeze. As for the past few days, though, the main hazard on paths is ice. With another overnight frost, there was ice on paths at all levels and there is likely to be even more on Thursday owing to a slow daytime thaw below 400m (especially on aspects catching the sun) followed by another forecasted hard overnight frost tonight. Ice is also present on popular routes where snow has been compacted and where small streams or drainage lines cross paths. Above 500m, such older ice was sometimes hidden beneath fresh snow and spindrift giving a false sense of security underfoot. On steeper routes where fresh snow/spindrift lies above older, compacted snow, the two layers have not bonded creating unstable conditions, such as on the exit to Striding Edge. Cornices have formed above steep slopes on many different aspects. Although they are very small, they consist of soft snow and are extremely unstable; indeed some have developed deep (relatively speaking) cracks. So please do not venture near the edge of any steep slope. Given a summit windchill on Wednesday of minus 11 degrees C, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone going out onto the fells. For those venturing above the snowline and attempting, or traversing, steep slopes an ice axe and crampons are also essential and are strongly recommended for anyone going above the snowline owing to the amount of ice on paths. For thinner ice on paths, microspikes are extremely useful. Goggles are recommended to reduce the sting of hail and spindrift driven on strong winds. Deep snow obscuring landmarks combined with low cloud creates challenging navigation as paths cannot simply be followed and steep drops are far less obvious, so only venture out in these conditions if you are competent and confident to do so. Temperature: minus 4.2 C, Maximum wind speed 9.6 mph, Wind chill: minus 10.6 C, Average wind speed: 7.6 mph

Issued at: 03:45 on Thu 07 Jan 2021

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